

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 007316

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:CREDMAN

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:LMATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO NORAD SDC ENT AFB CO/DOCSOC IMMEDIATE

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FOL REPEAT BUENOS AIRES 225 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO SANTIAGO
JAN 11, 1974

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 00225

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : ISPA, PFOR, AR

SUBJ: RETURN TO EARTH OF SKYLAB S-II BOOSETER

REF (A) A-6343 (1973); (B) STATE 3594, (C) STATE 4936

1. SUMMARY: BUENOS AIRES PRESS JAN 11 REPORTS SIGHTING AND POSSIBL
E

LANDING OF SPACE OBJECTS NEAR CITY OF SAN RAFAEL IN MENDOZA PROVINCE.
SPECULATION IS THAT OBJECTS WERE PARTS OF SUBJECT BOOSTER. THERE ARE
NO RPT NO REPORTS OF DAMAGE, BUT SOME REPORTS OF WINDOWS BEING RATTLE
D.

NATIONAL GENDARMARIE AND/OR LOCAL POLICE MAY ATTEMPT TO LOCATE FALLEN
OBJECTS. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFO REFTELS
(B) AND (C), END SUMMARY.

2. BUENOS AIRES PRESS OF JAN 11 CARRIES REPORT THAT, JUST AFTER
04:30 LOCAL TIME JAN. 10, A LUMINOUS OBJECT OF APPRECIABLE SIZE
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WAS OBSERVED NEAR SAN RAFAEL, MENDOZA PROVINCE, TRAVELLING IN THE

SKY FROM THE NORTHWEST TOWARD THE SOUTHEAST AND, SOME 3 TO 4 MINUTES LATER, A LOUD CLATTER (ESTRUENDO) WAS HEARD.

3. SEVERAL MUNICIPAL WORKERS REPORTEDLY SAW THE OBJECT, AS DID NIGHT - SHIFT WORKERS AT THE SAN RAFAEL SLAUGHTERHOUSE. SOME MOTORISTS ON ROUTE 40 REPORTEDLY ALSO SAW THE OBJECT. SOME REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE OBJECT LANDED IN THE ANDES FOOTHILLS.

4. ALMOST ALL REPORTS DESCRIBE THE OBJECT AS AN INCANDESCENT MASS OF GREAT LUMINOSITY, FOLLOWED BY OTHER SMALLER "POINTS". SOME OBSERVERS DESCRIBED THE PHENOMENON AS QUOTE A SEISMIC WAVE WHICH SHOOK THE FLOOR AND RATTLED DOORS AND WINDOWS IN SAN RAFAEL UNQUOTE. APPARENTLY, NOT MANY PEOPLE NOTICED THIS, HOWEVER.

5. ONE REPORT INDICATES THAT WINDOWS ALSO RATTLED IN VILLA ATUEL AND JAIME PRATS.

6. THE PRESS REPORT, PRINCIPALLY FROM "LA NACION", GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE MALARGUE STATION OF THE NATIONAL GENDARMARIE AND LOCAL UNITS OF THE MENDOZA POLICE WERE TRYING TO DETERMINE THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE LANDING OF THE SPACE OBJECTS. ONCE THEY HAVE A CLEAR INDICATION OF THIS, THEY REPORTEDLY INTEND TO TRY TO REACH THIS SPOT TO ATTEMPT TO LEARN WHAT TRANSPIRED.

7. REPORTS SPECULATE OF COURSE, THAT OBJECTS ARE PIECES OF THE NASA SKYLAB SATURN V, WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO EARTH IMPACT AT ABOUT THIS TIME.

8. EMBASSY REQUESTS AUTHORIZATION RELEASE INFO REFTEL (B) AS REVISED REFTEL (C) TO HOST GOVERNMENT AND TO PRESS, ALL ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS.
HILL

UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REENTRY VEHICLES, SPACE EXPLORATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE007316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:CREDMAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750012-0213
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750158/aaaabzjf.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 A-6343, 75 (197, 75 STATE 3594, 75 STATE 4936
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RETURN TO EARTH OF SKYLAB S-II BOOSETER
TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, AR, US
To: NORAD SDC ENT AFB CO/DOCSOC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006